

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006

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Contact Person

John W. Vaudreuil
Assistant U. S. Attorney

DRUG ARRESTS ON ST. CROIX TRIBAL LANDS

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced the unsealing today of two indictments -- charging eleven individuals -- returned by a federal grand jury in Madison on October 22, 2008. The following individuals were charged in the October 22 indictments with conspiring to distribute crack cocaine and with distributing crack cocaine:

Indictment One	
Jean Sonnenberg - age 52	1 count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine base and 4 counts of distribution of cocaine base
Bruce Sonnenberg - age 48	1 count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine base and 1 count of distribution of cocaine base
Diana Martin - age 43	1 count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine base and 5 counts of distribution of cocaine base
Andrew Sonnenberg - age 25	1 count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine base and 4 counts of distribution of cocaine base
Amanda Sonnenberg - age 23	1 count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine base and 1 count of distribution of cocaine base
Bruce Rainey - age 29	1 count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine base and 1 count of distribution of cocaine base
Christifer Sonnenberg - age 18	1 count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine base and 4 counts of distribution of cocaine base
Margrette Cobb - age 28	1 count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine base and 1 count of distribution of cocaine base

George Rainey - age 28	1 count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine base
Indictment Two	
Manley Williams - age 41	4 counts of distribution of cocaine base
Joseph Merrill - age 28	1 count of distribution of cocaine base

Andrew Sonnenberg was arrested today on the Red Lake Reservation in northeastern Minnesota. The remaining defendants are all residents of, and were arrested today on or near St. Croix Tribal lands in northwestern Wisconsin. Jean and Bruce Sonnenberg are husband and wife; Andrew Sonnenberg, Amanda Sonnenberg, and Christifer Sonnenberg are their children. Jean Sonnenberg is also the mother of Bruce Rainey and George Rainey.

The conspiracy charge carries a mandatory minimum penalty of ten years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison. The first distribution charge against Manley Williams and Joseph Merrill carries a mandatory minimum penalty of five years in prison and a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison. The remaining distribution charges, in both cases, carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

With the exception of Andrew Sonnenberg, all of the defendants will have their initial appearances in U.S. District Court in Madison on October 28 at 2:00 p.m. Andrew Sonnenberg will have his initial appearance in the District of Minnesota and will appear in Madison in the next two weeks.

Peterson stated that today's arrests are the result of a long-term investigation being conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the St. Croix Tribal

Police Department; the Rice Lake Police Department; the Barron County Sheriff's Department; the Burnett County Sheriff's Department; the Polk County Sheriff's Department; and the Wisconsin State Patrol. Peterson stated that the investigation is continuing and additional indictments and arrests are expected.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Vaudreuil is handling the prosecution of these cases.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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